

August 4, 1927

JOHN L. SCHORNACK FALLS TO DEATH

WAS RESIDENT OF GROTON VICINITY FOR ALMOST HALF CENTURY

Death came suddenly to John L. Schornack, aged pioneer and esteemed resident of Groton, when he fell the length of a stairway at his home early Friday morning. Medical assistance was summoned immediately, but he died at 8 o'clock, one and one-half hours after his fall.

Exact circumstances of his death are unknown. According to H. J. Van Bramer, among the first summoned by the terror-stricken widow, Schornack was awakened by the falling of his wife shortly after two o'clock in the morning. He crossed the hallway to her room, gave her medicine and water she requested, remained with her for a few minutes, and then walked toward his room.

A moment later Mrs. Schornack saw him fall to the foot of the stairway. She called his name, but received no answer. Rising from bed, she found the aged man huddled on the floor below, bleeding profusely. Whether he grooped for the railing, thus losing his balance, or slipped in the dim light that shone from Mrs. Schornack's room, he judged the distance of his own fall and turned too soon, will never be known.

C. O. Olson, H. J. Van Bramer, Louis Schornack and Max Hoppe were first to give aid and assistance to the old couple. Doctor Olson, assisted by Miss Ethel Holm, a trained nurse, labored over Schornack until 6 o'clock, in a vain attempt to keep life in the old body, but the uphill fight was too much for the old pioneer. At 8 o'clock he died. Fracture of the skull and many minor bruises sustained in the fall.

Louis Schornack was born in Preuben, Germany, August 24, 1858. He emigrated to America in 1875, settling at Winona, Minn. There he was married to Elizabeth Loersch, and five years later joined the march of pioneers to the Dakotas, making their permanent home in this vicinity.

Immediate relatives of Mr. Schornack are: One son, Louis, near Groton; four daughters, Mrs. Herman of Jamestown, N. D., Mrs. W. Synoground of Norton, N. D., Mrs. H. J. Van Bramer of Groton, and Mrs. H. C. Buchanan of Portland, Oregon; one brother, John, of Groton. All children were present for the funeral excepting Mrs. Buchanan, who was absent from home at the time of Mr. Schornack's death and did not return until Tuesday. She is expected to arrive later.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran church in this city Friday afternoon, conducted by Rev. E. E. Wilke, assisted by two sons of the deceased, Rev. W. H. Wilke of Yale, S. D., and Rev. P. Schornack, of Chester, S. D.

The quartet, composed of Misses Schlichting, Alma Adler, Leifman and Alvina Zoellner, sang "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Weary Pilgrim." At the conclusion Rev. Wielke sang a solo, "My Rest," which harmonized with the sermon.

The burial was made in Groton cemetery in charge of H. Paetznick.